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RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 3641  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1227  
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 0373

UNCLAS NICOSIA 001362

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: CYPRUS: EU MEMBER STATES DEMARCHE ON POSSIBLE WTO DISPUTE  
ON CHINA IRR

REF: STATE 126703

(U) This cable is sensitive but unclassified. Please protect accordingly.

1. (SBU) Post delivered on August 10 reftel demarche to Eleni Pitsillidou, Commercial Officer, at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism, who has just taken over the EU trade issues and 133 Committee portfolio from Charalambous Roussos. Pitsillidou is part of a skeleton staff at the Ministry, as most Cypriot officials have already departed for their August holidays. Pitsillidou promised to consider our demarche carefully and discuss it with her supervisors as well as with the MFA. She said she expected that the Commission and Member States would discuss this issue in September at the next 133 Committee meeting.

2. (SBU) We also used this opportunity to reiterate our call for GOC support in finding a way to revive the stalled WTO Doha Development Agenda negotiations. Despite having a small agricultural sector and being a net donor to the EU budget, the GoC continues to support French positions on CAP reform and limits to EU flexibility on agricultural market access, largely in return for French support on unrelated political issues. Pitsillidou defended the GOC decision, but seemed receptive to our arguments.

SCHLICHER